IRONDALE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Bark Lake Cultural Developments

December '23 / January '24

Bark Lake Cultural Developments

Charitable No.
80487 0087 RR0001

Incorporation No.
1871121

historical@IrondaleOntario.ca

Host your next function at Irondale's heritage church

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Irondale Community Centre

Advisory Committee
of
Minden Hills Council

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Service, Courage & Sacrifice

Nov 4 to 12 was a week of cold, overcast days with threats of rain/snow. That did not deter visitors. They came dressed for the elements to take in the magnitude of those featured in the flags. Each flag depicts an individual that served or is serving our country. This year's exhibit had 51 individual flags flying. An impressive number—all with ties to the Irondale area.

Inside the church, visitors found displays of memorabilia—loaned for the occasion of sharing with others. Those contributing items were George Simmons, Sue & Lorne Buckingham, Ivor & Diane Thompson, Steve & Kathy Proctor, Chuck Viner, Barry Simmons & Carol .

Work is underway to present the *Waterfall of Poppies*. Donations are being accepted now to support this project. Each poppy will be attached to a background material. The finished project will be attached to the steeple of the historic Irondale Church, flow down the wall and puddle at the base of the church. Individuals are basting red circles of material into 4" poppies. Early estimates predict the need for 990 completed poppies. Please have a look at bottom of page six to see how you can help this project along.

We are actively looking for pictures of the following men - Edward Joseph Beteau, Bob Hayes, Robert Bruce McGregor, Langford Miller, Ori Mintz, Gordon Cecil Taylor, Happy Keith Wright, Joseph Gordon Winnicott, Benjamin Franklin Wright, James Samson Wright, Noble Stanley Wright and Wesley Wright, to be put on flags for the 2024 exhibit.

We want to extend a big Thank You to Bill Godfrey. Bill has offered to take the flag stands home, clean them up, prep them and give them a coat of black paint. They will be ready to sport our flags next November. Treating them will keep them from rusting away on us.

We are interested in showcasing individuals from across the County on additional flags next November.
Email Carol at simmons03@gmail.com to find out how you can have your family member done.

Wilmington News-Journal
Wilmington, Ohio
08 Sep 1954, Wed • Page 7

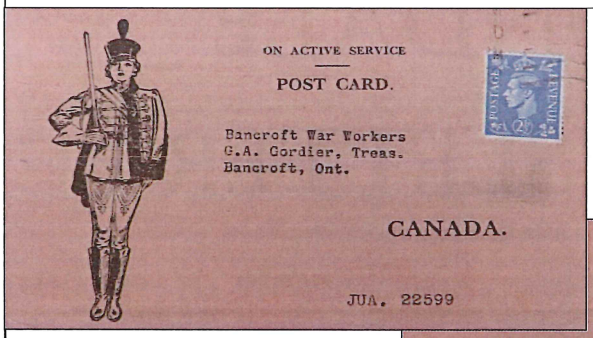
Reed, of Dayton, were weekend guests in their home.

• • •

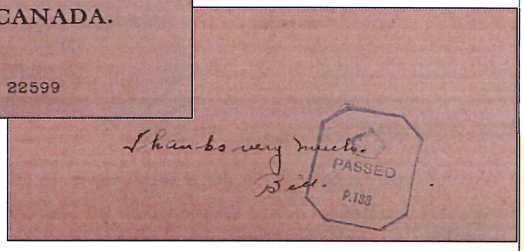
Mr. P. H. VanDervort returned Sunday from a three weeks vacation at Highland Trail Lodge, Irondale, Ontario, Canada.

All things to nothingness descend,
Grow old and die and meet their end;
Man dies, iron rusts, wood goes decayed,
Towers fall, walls crumble, roses fade...
Nor long shall any name resound
Beyond the grave, unless 't be found
In some clerk's book; it is the pen
Gives immortality to men THE END

a newspaper clipping found in a frame in Frederick Griffin's memorabilia



The postcard is addressed to the Treasurer of the Bancroft War Workers ...
he was a Reverend but what church remains a mystery.



Bancroft War Workers

Remembrance Day has passed and I noticed this year that there were more people talking about family members who either did not or could not enlist. These were the people who stayed home and worked the farms, mines and factories. In many communities across Canada, women (and some men) helped out by forming groups and volunteering time to knit and send care packages overseas.

One such group was the Bancroft War Workers (Bancroft is the "B" in I. B. &O Railway). Along with local clergy and other volunteers, two people who were instrumental in forming this group were Bob and Loa Stringer, grandparents of a friend of mine. They dedicated a room in their home for ladies to come and knit items to be sent to servicemen and women. I understand that Bob would buy the wool and Loa provided the needles and patterns. When some one had time, they could just pop in and knit ... the door was always left open. The items most in demand were toques, mittens, scarfs and of course socks.

When the knitted items were finished, the ladies would pack them into boxes along with other donated items such as candy, toiletries and of course, cigarettes. A pre-addressed postcard was included so that the recipient could send it back to the Bancroft War Workers group. Most times the card just said "thanks for the cigs" but often there would be a personal note to say, that the recipient had met someone from home and could they please pass that information along to the family. The Bancroft War Workers were a vital source of information for many families.

Most of the people from the Bancroft area joined the Hastings Prince Edward Regiment (the Hasty P's), which was based in Belleville. Once the items were packed in the boxes, the boxes were transported to the Belleville Armoury to be sent to the troops.

It is thanks to groups like the Bancroft War Workers and more importantly to people like Bob and Loa, who helped the war effort by donating their time and home, so that the care packages could be organised. During WWII, getting a care package from home was a great source of comfort to those serving overseas!

Submitted by Katherine McAlpine. THANK YOU

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF EUCHRE

Just for the Fun of it

IRONDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE

corner of Irondale Rd and Line Drive Rd

play starts 7pm sharp

My Irondale Years by Eleanor Cooper

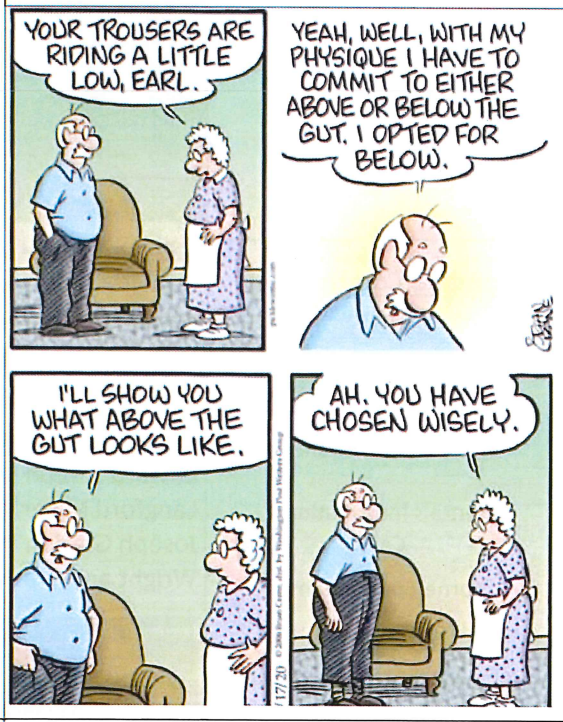
As Miss Owens, I began my one year of teaching at the Irondale school in 1954. Twenty one was the number of pupils, grades 1 to 8.

Later on in school several pupils distinguished themselves in commendable work: competent construction workers, several as teachers themselves, one who became Reeve of his township. Well done, George!

Familiar names in the community were Hancock, Simmons, Smith, Mintz and Graham.

Dr. Shepherd provided religious construction, Mr. Martin led in music weekly and prepared for the annual music festival.

Thanks Eleanor


YOUR TROUSERS ARE RIDING A LITTLE LOW, EARL.
YEAH, WELL, WITH MY PHYSIQUE I HAVE TO COMMIT TO EITHER ABOVE OR BELOW THE GUT. I OPTED FOR BELOW.
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT ABOVE THE GUT LOOKS LIKE.
AH. YOU HAVE CHOSEN WISELY.

This cartoon reminded me of a conversation I once had with my husband Fred.
I loved his belly — called him *my teddy bear.*

CHRISTMAS AND SANTA

By Sylvia Gilchrist

My husband, Jim, and I have been coming to Kinmount/Irondale area for over 50 years but just before Christmas 38 years ago we had Royal Homes put in a bungalow for us on property we had recently purchased.

We were excited about spending our first Christmas up here. My brother, Philip and his wife, son, and Mother-in-law came up from Dorchester, Ontario, to spend Christmas with us. We had finished dinner on Christmas Eve and were sitting around the dining room table singing Christmas carols when we heard a sound outside. Jim leaned back in his chair and looked out the dining room window and said "It's Santa." I thought he was joking and jumped out of my chair and went to the window.
Sure enough, there was Santa coming up the driveway. He came to our door, said *Ho, Ho, Ho,* and gave us a gift. We were all speechless.

The next Day, Christmas Day, we had invited Harold Carr, a local farmer, to join us for dinner. When we told him our Santa story, he said *"Well, you know who that is, don't you?"* We did not and so he told us that it was Fred Simmons. We knew his daughter, Brenda, and it was through Brenda that Fred knew we were enjoying Christmas at our cottage for the first time.
From that day, until he could do it no longer, Fred always came dressed as Santa on Christmas Eve. We were one of several people that he visited. One day I was listening to CBC and they asked for people to phone in and tell them Santa stories.

So, I phoned them and told them about our Santa, the fact he had been doing it for over 50 years and mentioned Fred's name. Unbeknownst to me, they managed to track him down and interview him. I learned that he had started being Santa when his children were small and had been Santa every year since. Following that year, we would always go to the Irondale church for the Christmas Eve service which was followed by goodies prepared by local ladies. Pearl, Fred's wife, always made butter tarts — the absolute best. Jim, my husband, loved butter tarts and Pearl always kept some for him. Christmas on 503 is a wonderful time and we have such great memories of the church and Santa. Congratulations to Carol Simmons, the Bark Lake Cultural Developments board and the rest of the community for keeping the church going.

Brenda Simmons — Fred's daughter shared this picture and the following "This picture was taken by Jim and Sylvia in 2006 on Christmas Eve. Dad said at the time of this picture he had played Santa for the last 52 years. He started at home when Gary was over a year old. When he was in Peterborough he saw Santa whiskers and and white long hair and a red long hat. He bought it and he had been doing Santa ever since. I upgraded his beard in later years."

with heartfelt sympathy

Grief never ends
but it changes.
It's a passage,
not a place to stay.
~
Since the last issue
We have had to say
Good-bye to

Glenda Moore
October 12, 2023
sister of Lou Graham
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Josie May Woodcox
November 16, 2023
mother of Wayne Graham
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

"Gone from our sight,
but never from our hearts"

Canoe Radio Bingo
100.9FM
Tuesdays at 6pm

Susies Musings

- Never lose hope because even the smallest amount of light can get you through the darkest days.
- No one has the right to judge you, because no one knows what you have been through. They may have heard stories, but they didn't feel what you have.
- Mom once told me " Once you are mature, you will realized that silence is more powerful than proving your point".
- Even when your tired, keep going: Even when your lonely, keep going: Even when you feel like you can't go any further, keep going: It is in those moments where you gain the reason why you must keep going.
- The truth is sometimes you have to do what's best for you and your life, not what's best for everyone else.
- When you build in silence, people don't know what to attack.

In 2012, word went out - St. John's Anglican Church was closing—people submitted their remembrances and they were compiled into a book. We will feature those stories from time to time.
If you had submitted a story—let me know you have given us permission to feature it here.

The Little White Church in Irondale

I remember the little white church as my "Grandmother's (Ethel Me Simmons) ad Great Uncle Joe's" church. Gramma Ethel Mae was my dad's mother. My Great Uncle Joe was my dad's uncle—his dad's brother.

My first memories of the church was the little wire gate going into the church yard with lilacs on both sides.

My grandmother and grandfather's house was about 200 feet from the church. It was the original Cherry Valley church, moved there from where the old Ken Knowles property was on Cty Rd 503 (just west of Milburn Rd) The Cherry Valley church was built by my great grandfather James Simmons.

My grandmother and Uncle Joe were the caretaker's of the little white church. They kept it clean and the grass cut. They used the land beside the church for their garden.

When I was in my younger years, I remember every Sunday in the summer. They had to make sure in the morning it was ready for service in the afternoon. In the early spring and fall they had a box stove in the church and sometimes I would go with Uncle Joe to light the fire. There was no electricity or furnace in the church. If there was an occasion to use it at night, they used lanterns and oil lamps.

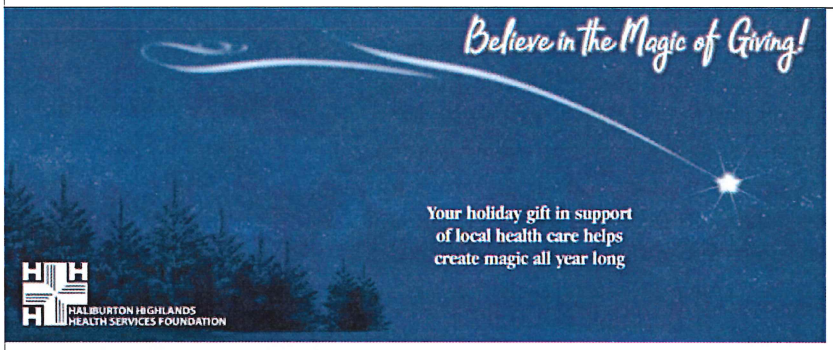
I remember some big funerals and weddings. One funeral in particular was my grandpa George's (dad's father). There were so many people, some were standing out on the street.

After my grandmother and Uncle Joe were unable to care for the church, my Uncle Fred and Aunt Pearl took over. They looked after the church for many years. Uncle Fred was responsible for the addition, which is used for gatherings.

Thanksgiving was always a very joyous occasion for people at the church. It was always very well decorated.

The little white church is one of three original structures still standing in Irondale. When most people think of Irondale, they think of the church.

Submitted by Fredrick James Simmons


Believe in the Magic of Giving!
Your holiday gift in support
of local health care helps
create magic all year long
HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS
HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

Believe in the Magic of Giving

Ros was introduced to the Minden Walking Club at a time when she was struggling with her mobility and considering long-term care. Then she met Georgia, the Social Recreation Coordinator for Community Support Services (CSS). Georgia guided Ros toward wellness over several months and her progress has been astonishing! Ros joined five additional programs offered through CSS and has successfully improved her health markers, has reduced her medications, and now participates extensively in local programming. She continues to live happily and safely at home.

Georgia completed her Senior's Fitness Instructor Certificate through an Education Grant from HHHS Foundation, which beautifully illustrates the power of community investment in support of local health care workers. Together we strive to optimize health care in the Highlands and the impact of your donation reaches deeply into the community. Thank you for giving and making these inspiring stories possible.

Over the past 12 months, the Foundation subsidized 1,202 Meals on Wheels for seniors experiencing food insecurity, helped 387 patients attend critical medical appointments through Community Support Services transportation and finished funding the "smart" IV pumps for critical care. We continue to support these community initiatives and capital equipment purchases, with an amplified focus on Diagnostic Imaging. These new resources will ensure healthcare workers have the tools they need to make timely and accurate diagnoses.

Thank you for Believing! Donate online at hhhs.ca/foundation, phone 705-457-1580
or mail to H.H.H.S. Foundation, P.O. Box 1413 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

THE LITTLE WHITE ENVELOPE:

"It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids. He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me.

Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition – one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children – ignoring their new toys – would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. The next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us."

For the Man Who Hated Christmas
(A true Christmas Story by Nancy W. Gavin, December 2015)

Patricia's Trivia Answers — How did you do?

London, 54 percent against, Albus Dumbledore, California, June, James LeBron, Billy Bishop, Phases of the Moon, Quebec, paycheck, Duff, Michael Bublé.

We wish you all the best that the New Year - 2024 has to give you.

Patricia's Trivia — Test Your Brain Cells

1. In the nursery rhyme, where has "pussy cat, pussy cat" been?
2. Did more Canadian vote for, or against the Charlotte Accord in 1992?
3. What character did Richard harris play in two 'harry Potter' movies?
4. In which U.S. state is the Golden Gate Bridge?
5. In what month does Quebec celebrate Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day?
6. What basketball star is known as King James?
7. What Canadian flying ace pilot had 72 air victories in WWI?
8. What do waxing, waning, new and full all refer to?
9. What province is home to the Gaspé Peninsula?
10. How is the word 'paycheque' spelled in American English?
11. On 'The Simpsons', what is Homer's favourite beer called?
12. Who had big hits with the songs 'Feeling Good' and 'Haven't Met You Yet'?

Answers found elsewhere in this issue.

Died In Canada.

From the Columbia Spy.

Mrs. Ruth Pusey, wife of Charles J. Pusey, died on last Friday evening at her home at Irondale, Ontario,and was buried in Greenwood cemetery, Brooklyn, on Monday. Mrs. Pusey was Miss Ruth Atkins, formerly of Columbia. The Atkins family at one time occupied the house now belonging to Mrs. George Crane, adjoining the First National bank. She was a sister of Mrs. Johns, wife of Dr. Henry Johns. Mr. Pusey was in the milling business where the Columbia Milling company is now located. He is now president and general manager of the Irondale, Bancroft & Ottawa Railway company, with headquarters at Irondale

Lancaster Intelligencer Newspaper, Pennyslvania
20 Jan 1892, Wed • Page 1

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

John Wesley (1703-1971)

Please submit your favourite recipes, poems, stories or pictures. Your Editor appreciates your help..

IRONDALE.

(Correspondence to The Post.)

Mr. Wallace, of Lindsay, passed this way on the 19th with a full line of sample boots and shoes.

Mr. Adams, representative of the Davidson & Hay Co., of Toronto, was here on the 25th.

Mr. P. A. Barr, of Gooderham, visited his parents at Irondale last week, accompanied by Mrs. Barr.

N. H. Filkin, conductor on the I. B. & O. R. R., spent Sunday with his family at Irondale.

Messrs. W. J. Davis and Murray and so far are doing satisfactory work. have been through this way threshing,

Mrs. W. Spencely, of Bark lake, passed through here on their way to Uxbridge.

A meeting was held at Cherry Valley church, Irondale, for the purpose of deciding about a harvest home social. Date will be given next issue.

Mr. S. E. Hancock has purchased a fine new top buggy.

Mr. F. Spencely, of Kinmount, is engaged with Mr. P. Barr for a month or so.

A picnic is expected at White lake on 1st Sept. All are invited.

Canadian Post (Lindsay)
2 Sept 1898

All the best for the Holiday Season and the New Year from the Irondale Community

www.IrondaleOntario.ca

YES - I am pleased to add my support to the *Waterfall of Poppies* project.

Donations can be by

- cheque payable to B.L.C.D. and mailed to Box 113, Irondale, ON K0M 1X0

- etransfer to historical@IrondaleOntario.ca

- cash given to one of our board members

Donations of $20 or more will be issued an official receipt for income tax

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www.hhhsf5050.ca
BUY TICKETS NOW

PLEASE FOLLOW US *www.facebook/IrondaleOntario and VISIT* OUR WEBSITE *www.IrondaleOntario.ca*

Irondale Events are advertised in these local papers - available at most stores across the county.

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY | The Times MINDEN ONTARIO | County Life Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands

~ Irondale Calendar of Events ~

These are tentative dates - depends on state of Covid pandemic and rental of community centres.
Please be sure to check the appropriate website and/or Facebook pages to get up to date information

2023	Unless otherwise noted - Tickets available online at www.IrondaleOntario.ca or call/text 705-457-8438
Sat. Feb. 10	**Valentines' Dinner** with Trivia please watch our Facebook page, website and/or your email for finalized plans
Sun. Mar 17	St. Patty's Breakfast - Doors open at 9am. Breakfast served until 11am. $15 per person. Proceeds to Irondale's history. Breakfast menu available.
Sun. Apr 7	**Mother's Day Tea** We can't wait for May. We are celebrating Mother's everywhere today. Fancy sandwiches, homemade scones, delightful desserts. $25 per person
Sat. May 11	**Dinner** held at the Gooderham Community Centre. Doors open 5pm. Dinner at 6pm. Menu still be planned. Loonie auction after dessert. $20 pp
Sun. Jun 2	First Church Service of the season. 10am—come as you are. Refreshments and conversation served after the service.
Sat. Jun 8	Welcome Back! We are celebrating with our **Spring Fling**. 11am - 4pm We are honouring Father's Day — dads get something extra when family eats at our BBQ. Vendors, displays, tours—1019 Elm Rd - on the property of Irondale's historical church building. NO ADMISSION CHARGED.
Sat. July 13	**Concert on the Lake** - Great music from the comfort of your own boat, canoe or paddleboard. Music starts at 6:30pm Tickets available in advance. Check *www.sdlca.ca* for more details.
Sat. July 20	**Dinner & Loonie Auction** Popular dinner, held at the **Gooderham Community Centre**. Doors open 5pm, buffet at 6pm. Remember bring loonies for after dinner fun. *B.L.C.D. event with proceeds supporting Irondale's history.*
Sat. Aug 3 **Sun. Aug 4**	Salerno Devil's Lake Cottage Association's AGM Salerno Devil's Lake Cottage Association's Canoe Race, BBQ and Children's Games check www.sdlca.ca for up to date information.
Sat. Sept 21	**Harvest Festival** - We celebrate the fall season with BBQ, Bake Sale, vendors, contests and more 11am – 4pm on the heritage property at 1019 Elm Rd FREE ADMISSION
Sat. Nov 2 to Mon. Nov 11	**Service, Courage & Sacrifice** - 10am to 4pm each day - a display of flags of those brave individuals associated with Irondale, that served Canada in various aspects of war. Wander the grounds in remembrance, visit indoor displays of military memorabilia. New flags & displays from last year!

www.hhhsf5050.ca